

EMPLOYMENT LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2005
DISCUSSION OF REQUEST LEGISLATION FOR MINOR WORK PERMIT FEE

Rich Ervin, Program Manager for the Employment Standards Program introduced the legislation and history as to the request. Rich stated L&I approves an average of 30,000 minor work permits per year and that 5000 are not renewed every year and L&I does not know why; we have insufficient staff to follow up on reasons for failure to renew, and do not have the resources for staff to investigate any but the most egregious minor worker injuries; the \$10 fee is renewable year to year when minor work permit is renewed; L&I needs the fee to help outreach and compliance.

Business

Why initiate a fee now? This should be part of L&I's internal budget and not passed to employers.

Program should be responsible for the costs with funds already appropriated; Ervin stated this is a workload issue for outreach and compliance to businesses.

Employers already incur enough costs to employ teens.

Do not agree with this bill but let the legislators make the final decision.

Don't make L&I workload the issue. The number of minor permit applications have dropped in past years; how many variances have been issued; (Ervin responded approximately 300 per year). Member attended a meeting recently where he learned that money for a fee for another agency was siphoned off into other programs.

WRA is opposed to the bill if the automatic fee increase is left in, but the way it is written now, it expires in 2007 anyway. Recommends leaving automatic fee increase out. Mike Ratko responded the language was an OFM requirement. Ervin responded the department has requested language change about 2007 date.

If automatic fee is approved, then a system should be built in that variances are automatically renewed when the MP is renewed every year. Variances are generally approved from year to year and that would save staff and employer time.

Opposes "per site" cost to employers with more than one location.

His company hires minors more as a community service than deriving any financial benefit from the work they produce. The community gets a return, but

the company puts in a lot of money to hiring them, meeting other L&I requirements.

The fee is an additional burden. He does not agree with the yearly increase; his concern is that it would go up too much.

This is the price of doing business for L&I.

Labor

Suggests L&I does write up as to what is has been able to do vs. what it has not. Does not think the current fact sheet is not well written.

Agrees with \$10 fee but opposes yearly increase?

What is L&I's track record?

What other divisions have license fees built in?